

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [023] with the following amended paragraph:

[023] During the image registration and projection process at step 104, starting with the “left-most” image in the series, each image I is registered with the next adjoining image I' to its right in order using a feature-based registration approach (see step 120 in Figure 2). During feature-based registration of a pair of adjoining images, features corresponding to high curvature points in the adjoining images I and I' are extracted and corners within the features are detected. Grey-scale Harris corner detect is adopted and is based on the following operator:

$$c(x, y) = \frac{\overline{(I_x)^2} \bullet \overline{(I_y)^2} - \overline{(I_x \bullet I_y)}^2}{\overline{(I_x)^2} + \overline{(I_y)^2} + \epsilon}$$

where:

c(x, y) is a detected corner;

y and x are the co-ordinates of a pixel in the image assuming the top-left corner of the image is at co-ordinate (0,0);

I_x and I_y indicate the directional derivatives respectively;

ϵ is a small number to avoid overflow; and

\overline{I} is a box filter smoothing operation on I_x and I_y .